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CIA says 54 institutions got '50's, '60's drug-tests data

By ALBERT SCHLSTEDT, JR.

The Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday that approximately 54 institutions have requested and received hitherto secret documents linking them to the agency's experimental drug program in the 1950's and 1960's.

In all, about 80 institutions had been unwittingly involved in the secret project, called MK-ULTRA, dealing in part with so-called mind-bending tests and other experiments.

The Central Intelligence Agency began the process of notifying each institution in mid-August.

The University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University were two of the 80 institutions that were involved. However, neither university's work seemed to be directly associated with drug tests.

MK-ULTRA, conducted between 1953 and 1954, was an umbrella project with a number of objectives. It was aimed, among other things, at enabling the CIA to perfect interrogation techniques; detecting the use of similar techniques by a potential enemy, and helping the agency to induce amnesia in its own as well as en-

emy agents.

A spokesman for the intelligence agency said yesterday that 15 of the 80 institutions had not responded at all to the agency's August notification of involvement with MK-ULTRA. In addition, there were 8 organizations the agency was unable to locate because they no longer exist.

Three other institutions declined to accept the agency documents linking them to MK-ULTRA. The papers for two more institutions are still being processed, the spokesman said.

One organization declined to accept the CIA documents but requested the agency to respond to several questions by mail.

The agency has refused to disclose the name of any university or other organization that was involved in the project. The decision to reveal the CIA link was left to each institution, which included prisons, mental hospitals and research laboratories, as well as universities.

Asked what response the CIA received from the contacted institutions, the agency spokesman said they were "generally appreciative of us being forthcoming."

Only a few expressed any deep con-

cern, primarily because of the length of time that had elapsed between the period of the tests and the time of the notification, he said.

The notification process began after Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, presented two Senate panels with a classified list of the institutions that had been involved with MK-ULTRA.

Admiral Turner told the Senate Intelligence committee and the health subcommittee that no similar programs were now being conducted by the CIA, adding that if he ever discovered any "heads would roll."

A number of the CIA documents given the various institutions were fragmentary and it was difficult to establish the precise nature of the work that had been conducted under the title of MK-ULTRA.

The University of Maryland's involvement with the project was traced to a 1956 Medical School study which may have been aimed at arresting the spread of cancer cells.

The Hopkins project apparently dealt with a study of "allergic substances," a spokesman for the university said.